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Did JFK aides lie in death probe?

By Bob Wiedrich
Chicago Tribune

A CIA officer says the Warren Commission was denied crucial information about the assassination of John F. Kennedy by two of the slain President's aides after they were advised by FBI officials.

Preliminary information was given congressional leaders by a Central Intelligence Agency liaison prior to twin Capitol Hill investigations of CIA activity.

According to the material, Presidential aides Kenneth O'Donnell and David Powers reportedly told investigators soon after Kennedy's assassination they thought they saw shots from a location away from the Texas School Book Depository from where Lee Harvey Oswald may have gunned down the President.

Before O'Donnell and Powers surrendered sworn accounts to the Warren Commission, either the late Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover himself or his top aides prevailed on them not to disclose their suspicions.

But O'Donnell says the story "is an absolute lie."

The liaison officer alleged the FBI warned O'Donnell and Powers testimony to that effect could lead to international incident and inflame public passions fed by other secret information then known by the FBI.

Federal investigators determined Oswald had visited Mexico City eight weeks before the Kennedy assassination, contacting both the Cuban and Soviet embassies there.

"I testified under oath and I stand by it," said O'Donnell.

O'Donnell said he told the Warren Commission he heard two shots. The first he thought was a firecracker. Both came from behind, he said. And Powers, O'Donnell said, reported hearing three shots, all from the same direction.